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PRIVATE JOURNAL,

OF

DURING A PORTION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,

FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF A SISTER

BY MARGARET MORRIS,

NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA — PRIVATELY PRINTED.

1836

ENTERED, according to the act of Congress, in the year 1836, by JOHN J. SMITH, JR., in the clerk's office of the District Court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION.

The following is a list of the names of the persons that have been received of a name, and the names of the persons who have been prepared for their names. The names of the persons who have been prepared for their names, and the names of the persons who have been prepared for their names, have been printed, this can be seen in the list of names.

But the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, and the kind of persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period.

On the other hand, the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, and the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period. The names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, and the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period, are not the same as the names of the persons who have been prepared during the same period.

at his residence, in Fourth street, Philadelphia, since occupied by Dr. P. S. Physick. She was a pious Christian ; her ever cheerful and equable temperament, through many years of great suffering and confinement to her couch, were truly remarkable ; it is in that character that she is best remembered by her grandchildren and numerous connections, to whom her whole career was a pattern of modesty, benevolence, and a just reliance on Divine Providence, which never failed to sustain her through many trials.

No apology is offered for her political feelings ; those she possessed in common with too many of her countrymen, both good and great, to make her a mark for satire or reprehension. The few domestic circumstances that occur, are left as I found them, believing that they add to the interest of the journal, in which scarcely an alteration has been made, except to insert a name or an initial where the persons alluded to were left in uncertainty. It is much to be regretted that the manuscript is so brief, but it is not, on that account, unworthy of preservation. The sister for whom the journal was written, was Milcah Martha Moore, wife of Dr. Charles Moore, then residing at Montgomery Square, Pa.

To the descendants of the estimable lady, whose cheerful and religious mind they portray, these few pages are dedicated by her grandson,

JOHN J. SMITH, JR.

Philadelphia, 1836.

PRIVATE JOURNAL

Decr. 6th 1776. Being on a visit to my friend, M^r S., at Haddonfield, I was preparing to return to my family, when a person from Philadelphia told me the people there were in great commotion, that the English fleet was in the river, and hourly expected to sail up to the city, that the inhabitants were removing into the country, and that several persons of considerable repute had been discovered to have formed a design of setting fire to the city, and were summoned before the congress, and strictly enjoined to drop the horrid purpose. When I heard the above report my heart almost died within me, and I cried, surely the Lord will not punish the innocent with the guilty, and I wished there might be some Lot's and Abrahams amongst *our people*. On my journey home I was told the inhabitants of our little town [Burlington, N. J.] were going on foot into the country, and that my nearest neighbours were already removed. When I heard this I felt myself quite sick. I was ready to faint. I thought of my S. D. Sord, D. Wynne, wife of George, then absent, the beloved companion of my wife & I, to her husband at the distance of some hundred miles from her. I thought of my own lonely situation, no husband to cheer with the voice of love, no comforting parts. My little flock, too, without a father to direct them how to steer. All these things crowded into my mind at once, and I felt like one for whom a flood of friendly tears came to my relief, and I felt a humble confidence that He who had been with me in six troubles, would not forsake me

now. While I cherished this hope, my tranquillity was restored, and I felt no sensations but of humble acquiescence to the Divine will—and was favoured to find my family in good health on my arrival, and my dear companion not greatly discomposed, for which favour I desire to be truly thankful.

Dec. 7th. A letter from my next neighbour's husband, at the camp, warned her to be gone in haste, and many persons coming into town to-day, brought intelligence that the British army were advancing towards us.

Dec. 8th. Every day begins and ends with the same accounts, and we hear to-day, that the regulars are at Trenton—some of our neighbours gone, and others going, makes our little bank [Green Bank on the river,] look lonesome. But our trust in Providence still firm, and we dare not even talk of removing our family.

Dec. 9th. This evening were favoured with the company of our faithful friend and brother, R. W. [Rd. Wells.] This testimony of his love, was truly acceptable to us.

Dec. 10th. To-day our amiable friend, E. C. [Hetty Cox] and her family bade us adieu. My brother also left us, but returned in less than an hour, telling us, he could not go away just as the Hessians were entering the town—but no troops coming in, we urged him to leave us next morning, which he concluded to do after preparing us to expect the Hessians in a few hours. A number of galleys have been lying in the river, before the town, for two days past.

Dec. 11th. After various reports from one hour to another, of lighthorse approaching, the people in town had certain intelligence that a large body of Hessians were come to Bordentown, and we might expect to see them in a few hours. About 10 o'clock of this day, a party of about 60 men marched down the main street—as they passed along they told our doctor [Odell,] and some other persons in the town, that a large number of Hessians were advancing, and would be in the town in less than an hour. This party were riflemen, who, it seems, had crossed the river some where in the neighbourhood of Bordentown, to reconnoitre, and meeting with a superior number of Hessians on the road, were then returning, and took Burlington in their way back: from us they crossed to

Bentley, led by the men, the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, to the upper part of the hill. He went, to the number, 1000, found out 4000 and 5000 and got out 10000. On the first day, he found out 10000. On the second day, he found out 10000. On the third day, he found out 10000. On the fourth day, he found out 10000. On the fifth day, he found out 10000. On the sixth day, he found out 10000. On the seventh day, he found out 10000. On the eighth day, he found out 10000. On the ninth day, he found out 10000. On the tenth day, he found out 10000. On the eleventh day, he found out 10000. On the twelfth day, he found out 10000. On the thirteenth day, he found out 10000. On the fourteenth day, he found out 10000. On the fifteenth day, he found out 10000. On the sixteenth day, he found out 10000. On the seventeenth day, he found out 10000. On the eighteenth day, he found out 10000. On the nineteenth day, he found out 10000. On the twentieth day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-first day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-second day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-third day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the twenty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the thirtieth day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-first day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-second day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-third day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the thirty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the fortieth day, he found out 10000. On the forty-first day, he found out 10000. On the forty-second day, he found out 10000. On the forty-third day, he found out 10000. On the forty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the forty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the forty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the forty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the forty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the forty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the fiftieth day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-first day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-second day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-third day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the fifty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the sixtieth day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-first day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-second day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-third day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the sixty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the seventieth day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-first day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-second day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-third day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the seventy-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the eightieth day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-first day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-second day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-third day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the eighty-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the ninetieth day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-first day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-second day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-third day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-fourth day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-fifth day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-sixth day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-seventh day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-eighth day, he found out 10000. On the ninety-ninth day, he found out 10000. On the hundredth day, he found out 10000.

They were all out of the town, and then, the He... in colonel spoke, but little... He... in a... manner, on... and security to... of the day, the... of the day, the... in their ranks... Moore... on an... on... and told Capt. Moore... Burlington that night, Moore... would... with... that no manner of disorder... Capt. Moore replied, that in his... the town, but that he would... as soon as...

When... Dr. Old I was told it would be a... to our own people, to have a... not doubting the... of the... of the... to the people of the town. The... to a person with whom he could...

He... to the same purport as... the... would be found no persons in... belonging to persons... of the inhabitants; that if... in which they were found would...

be given up to pillage ; to prevent which, it would be necessary to give him a just and fair account of such effects, which account he would forward to the general, and that if we acted openly and in good faith in these respects, he repeated his assurances, upon the honour of a soldier, that he would be answerable for every kind of disorder on the part of his troops. They remained in profound silence in their ranks, and the commandant with some of his officers came into town as far as J. L.'s, where they dined, waiting the commodore's answer.

The doctor says, that as he thought he observed much of the gentleman in the commandant, and the appearance, at least, of generosity and humanity, he took an opportunity to inform him, that there was an old friend of his [the Dr.'s] who was a colonel, and of some estimation in the continental army—that he was at present with Gen. Washington, and that his lady, an amiable woman, had gone into the country with most of her effects—that the doctor was ignorant of the place of her retreat, but that before her departure she had begged him on the footing of former friendship to take into his house, and if he might be permitted to keep as under his protection, some few things which she could not remove, and told the commandant, he was ready to give an exact account of such of her effects as he had thus taken charge of; and at the same time confessed that when he took them, it was in the hope of being suffered to preserve them for his friend. The commandant told him without a moment's hesitation, "Sir, you need not be at the trouble of giving any further account of those things you have so candidly mentioned—be assured that whatever effects have been entrusted with you in this way, I shall consider as your own, and they shall not be touched." From this answer he was encouraged to hope he might be of still further service to his friends, and in the full persuasion that nothing would occur to disturb the peaceable disposition that was making; but as it happened the commodore had received intelligence of a party of Hessians having entered Burlington before Captain Moore got down to him, and had ordered up four galleys to fire on the town wherever any two or three persons should be seen together, Capt. Moore met and hailed them one after another, but the wind was so high that he was not heard or not understood. The four gondolas came up, and the first of them

appearing before the main street, J. L. 'T. H.' and W. D.* went down upon the wharf and waved a hat; the signal was followed on with Capt. Moore for the boat to come a-bore and give the command in answer in peace: to the astonishment of the gentlemen and the answer they received was first a swivel shot. Not believing it possible this could be designedly done, they stood still, and J. L. again waved his hat, and was answered with an 18 pounder; both these fires as the gondola people have since told us, were made with as good aim as could be taken, as they took it for granted it was at Hessians they fired; however, as it was impossible to conjecture that such conduct could have happened, or to suppose such a mistake, it is no wonder the town was exceedingly alarmed; however, in the light of a cruel as well as unprovoked piece of treachery, Captain Newman, the commandant rose calmly from table, and his officers with him went out to enlighten the men who had come to the door as a small body guard. He ordered the doctor as he went into the street, and said, he could easily dispel all the people out of the possibility of danger, but that much mischief might be done to the town, and that he would take a view of the gondolas, and see what measures might be necessary on his part; but that he should be sorry taking occasion of any danger or distress to the inhabitants. He walked down the river, and about fifteen or twenty sentinels in Indian file together to view and report to him what they saw.

The cannon fired and then soon at different times, induced the people on board to believe that the houses were full of Hessians, and a cannonade was continued to a most distance in different directions, sometimes along the street, sometimes across it. Several houses were struck and a little damaged, but not one living creature, either man or beast, killed or wounded. About dark the gondolas fell down a little way below the town, and the night was passed in quiet.

While in the tumult was in town, we, on our peaceful bank, ignorant of the occasion, of the thing, were wondering what it could mean, and unsuspecting of

* Wm. Dillavine, married to a sister of Mrs. Smith, father of Susan Emilen, and afterwards settled in England.

danger, were quietly pursuing our business in the family, when a kind neighbour informed us of the occasion, and urged us to go into the cellar, as a place of safety. We were prevailed on by him to do so, and remained there till it ceased.

Dec. 12th. The people of the galleys, suspecting that some troops were yet either concealed in the town, or neighbourhood of it, have been very jealous of the inhabitants, who have often been alarmed with reports that the city would be set on fire; many have gone in haste and great distress into the country, but we still hope no mischief is seriously intended. A number of men landed on our bank this morning, and told us it was their settled purpose to set fire to the town. I begged them not to set my house on fire; they asked which was my house, and they said they knew not what hindered them from firing on it last night, for seeing a light in the chambers they thought there were Hessians in it, and they pointed their guns at it several times. I told them my children were sick, which obliged me to burn a light all night. Though they did not know what hindered them from firing on us, I did: it was the guardian of the widow and the orphan, who took us into his safe-keeping, and preserved us from danger;—oh, that I may keep humble, and be thankful for this, as well as other favours vouchsafed to my little flock.

Dec. 13th. This day we began to look a little like ourselves again. The troops were removed some miles from town, as we hear, and our friends began to venture out to see us—but the suspicious of the gondola men, still continued, and search was made in and about the town for men distinguished by the name of tories. About noon of this day, dear brother R. W. popped in upon us—he had heard the firing yesterday, and being anxious for our safety, he ran the risk of venturing amongst us to see how we had fared—surely this proof of his love will never be forgotten by me while my memory lasts; he left us after dinner.

Dec. 14th. This day there was no appearance of the formidable Hessians. Several of our friends called to see us; amongst the number was one (Dr. Odell,) esteemed by the whole family, and very intimate in it; but the spirit of the devil still continued to rove through the town in the shape of tory-hunters. A message was delivered to our intimate friend, informing him a party of armed men were

though indeed it was my son at the mill; he is but a boy, and meant no harm—he wanted to see the troops.”

So I marched at the head of them, opened the door, and searched every place, but we could not find the tory,—strange where he could be. We returned—they, greatly disappointed—I, pleased to think my house was not suspected. The captain, a smart little fellow, named Shippen, said he wished he could see the spy-glass. S. D. produced it, and very civilly desired his acceptance of it, which I was sorry for, as I often amused myself in looking through it. They left us, and searched J. V.’s [James Verree] and the two next houses, but no tory could they find. This transaction reached the town, and Colonel Cox was very angry, and ordered the men on board. In the evening I went to town with my refugee, and placed him in other lodgings. I was told to-day of a design to seize upon a young man in town, as he was esteemed a tory. I thought a hint would be kindly received, and, as I came back, called upon a friend of his, and told him. Next day he was out of the reach of the gondolas.

Dec. 17th. More news! great news! very great news; (J. V.’s). The British troops actually at Mount Holly!—guards of militia placed at London and York bridges—gondola men in arms patrolling the street, and diligent search making for fire-arms, ammunition, and tories—another attempt last night to enter into R. Smith’s house. Early this morning J. V. sent in, to beg I would let my son go a few miles out of town on some business for him. I consented, not knowing of the formidable doings up town—when I heard of it I felt a mother’s pangs for her son all the day; but when night came, and he did not appear, I made no doubt of his being taken by the Hessians. A friend made my mind easy, by telling me he had passed through the town where the dreadful Hessians were said to be “playing the very mischief,” (J. V. again); it is certain there were numbers of them at Mount Holly, but they behaved very civilly to the people, excepting only a few persons, who were actually in rebellion, as they termed it, whose goods, &c. they injured. This evening every gondola man sent on board, with strict orders not to set a foot on the Jersey shore again—so far so good.

Dec. 18th. This morning gives us hope of a quiet day—but my mind still

goes on—"Oh! Ah! you will have enough of them; I expect to have my house full! I saw a man from Holly, yesterday, who says he saw fifty of the light-horse, all very fine English horses—oh it was a terrible sight to see how they all foamed at the mouth and pranced—and fifty Hessians all quartered at Holly; but Putnam is surely coming with 1500 men." "Well, but neighbour, I should suppose it was a very fine sight to see so many fine horses together, and prancing."—"Oh no, bless my spirits! it is a terrible sight to see how they foamed at the mouth!" "Well, we shall hear by and by what the ambassadors have done—I hope they won't come in to-night with the Hessians, for I am quite unprovided to entertain company." (Observe, Patty, it was I that was in such a fidget and not provided for company)—"Whip the fellows, I got supper enough for twenty of them the first night of the alarm, and I'm resolved I'll trouble myself no more about them till I see some of them in earnest—17 Hessians in town to-day, and we were told the Recorder was desired to prepare a dinner for about 500 men—a friend, from town, called in about 4 o'clock, and told us they were all a-coming. We asked if he had seen them? no! but he heard they were just here—we asked him how we, at this distance from town, should know of their coming; they might pop upon us here and scare us out of our wits—as we had no man in the house—he said, "Oh, you will know of it fast enough, I warrant—why the noise of the cannon and wagons will be heard at a great distance, and I advise you to make good use of your time till they do come, and put all things of gold and silver out of their way, and all linen too, or you will lose it." I said they pillaged none but rebels, and we were not such; we had taken no part against them, &c. But that signified nothing; we should lose all, &c. After he was gone, my S. D. and myself asked each other why it was that all these stories did not put us into a fright—we were not even discomposed; surely it is a favour never to be forgotten. We concluded to sit up a little later than usual to-night, but no rattling could we hear. Ambassadors returned—a report that the congress dollars will be allowed to circulate for a certain number of years—a battery talked of, to be raised at the point of the island. We are told the two pieces of cannon, said to be at Bristol, have disappeared.

Dec. 21st. More snow last night—no danger of gondolas now—more

taken prisoner by a party of light-horse, who surrounded him, and took him to New York, (hope privately that he will not escape); to-day (22d) we hear Gen. Howe is at Trenton, and it is thought there will be an engagement soon. A man who was at Mount Holly the other day, tells us he saw a great many of the British troops—that some of them went to the magazine there [a small room over the court-house] and took out about 100 wooden canteens, and the same number of broken fire-arms, and, calling for a guard of 100 men, piled them up in the street, and ordered the men in derision to take charge of them. This afternoon we hear of our refugee again, and that he has got a protection, as it is called. The rage of tory-hunting a little subsided; we now hear only of the Hessian-hunters; but they make a poor hand of it—not one brought in that we know of. We hear this afternoon that our officers are afraid their men will not fight, and wish they may all run home again. A peaceable man ventured to prophesy to-day that, if the war is continued through the winter, the British troops will be scared at the sight of our men, for as they never fought with naked men, the novelty of it will terrify them, and make them retreat faster than they advanced to meet them; for he says, from the present appearance of our ragged troops, he thinks it probable they will not have clothes to cover them a month or two hence.

Several of the families, who left the town on the day of the cannonading, are returned to their houses; the intelligence brought in this evening is seriously affecting; a party of our men, about 200, marched out of Mount Holly, and meeting with a party of Hessians near a place called Petticoat Bridge, an engagement ensued—the Hessians retreating rather than advancing—a heavy firing of musketry and some cannon heard; we are informed that twenty-one of our men were killed in the engagement, and that they returned at night to their headquarters at Mount Holly, the Hessians to theirs at the Black Horse.

Dec. 23d. This day twelve gondolas came up the river again, but we know not as yet the occasion of their coming; the troops at Mount Holly went out again to-day and engaged the Hessians near the same place where they met yesterday; it is reported we lost ten men, and that our troops are totally routed and the Hessians in possession of Mount Holly. This evening a little alarm in

Dec. 25th. An officer said to be gone to Bristol from the Count de Nope with a flag, and offers of letting our town remain a neutral post. Gen. Reed at Philadelphia. An express sent to him, and we hear he is to meet the Count to-morrow, at Jno. Antrim's, and settle the preliminaries.

Dec. 26th. Very stormy; we fear Gen. Reed will not meet the Count to-day. A great number of flat-bottom boats gone up the river; we cannot learn where they are going to.

Dec. 27th. A letter from Gen. Reed to his brother, informing him that Washington had had an engagement with the regulars, on the 25th, early in the morning, taking them by surprise; killed 50 and took 900 prisoners—the loss on our side not known, or if known, not suffered to be public. It seems this heavy loss to the regulars, was owing to the prevailing custom among the Hessians, of getting drunk on the eve of that great day which brought peace on earth, and good will to men—but oh! how unlike Christians is the manner in which they celebrate it. Can we call ourselves Christians, while we act so contrary to our master's rules? He set the example which we profess to follow, and here is a recent instance that we only profess it; instead of good will, envy and hatred seem to be the ruling passions in the breasts of thousands. This evening, the 27th, about 3000 of the Pennsylvania militia and other troops landed in the neck, and marched into town with artillery, baggage, &c., and are quartered on the inhabitants. One company were lodged at J. V.'s, and a guard placed between his house and ours; we were so favoured as not to have any sent to our house. An officer spent the evening with us, and appeared to be in high spirits, and talked of engaging the English as a very trifling affair—nothing so easy as to drive them over the North River, &c.; not considering there is a God of battle, as well as a God of peace, who may have given them the late advantage, in order to draw them out to meet the chastisement that is reserved for them.

Dec. 28th. Early this morning the troops marched out of town in high spirits; a flight of snow this morning drove the gondolas again down the river. My heart sinks when I think of the numbers unprepared for death, who will probably be sent in a few days to appear before the Judge of Heaven. The

Him who can bring out of this confusion the greatest order. I do not hear that any messengers have been in town from the camp.

Jan. 3d. This morning we heard very distinctly a heavy firing of cannon; the sound came from about Trenton, and at noon a number of soldiers, upwards of 1000, came into town in great confusion, with baggage and some cannon. From these soldiers we learn there was a smart engagement yesterday, at Trenton, and that they left them engaged near Trenton mill, but were not able to say which side was victorious. They were again quartered on the inhabitants, and we again exempt from the cumber of having them lodged in our house. Several of those who lodged in Col. Cox's house last week, returned to-night, and asked for the key, which I gave them; about bedtime, I went into the next house to see if the fires were safe, and my heart was melted to see such a number of my fellow-creatures, lying like swine on the floor, fast asleep, and many of them without even a blanket to cover them. It seems very strange to me, that such a number should be allowed to come from the camp at the very time of the engagements, and I shrewdly suspect they have run away—for they can give no account why they came, nor where they are to march next.

Jan. 4th. The accounts hourly coming in, are so contradictory and various, that we know not which to give credit to. We have heard our people have gained another victory—that the English are fleeing before them, some at Brunswick, some at Princeton. We hear to-day that Sharp Delany, and A. Morris, and others of the Pennsylvania militia, are killed, and that the Count de Nope is numbered with the dead; if so, the Hessians have lost a brave and humane commander. The prisoners taken by our troops, are sent to Lancaster jail. A number of sick and wounded brought into town—calls upon us to extend a hand of charity towards them. Several of *my* soldiers left the next house, and returned to the place from whence they came; upon my questioning them pretty close, I brought several to confess they had run away, being scared at the heavy firing on the 3d. There were several pretty innocent-looking lads among them, and I sympathised with their mothers, when I saw them preparing to return to the army.

we expect it will be strong enough to walk over in a day or two, and give an opportunity, to those inclined to escape, of crossing over, which, for several weeks past, has been attended with some difficulty; all the boats belonging to the town being seized upon by the gentlemen of the galleys, and either borne away, or broke to pieces, which they said was done to prevent the Hessians from crossing the river; and, on the same pretence, a number of bridges have been taken up, and others so much damaged as to make it difficult for travellers to pass from hence to Philadelphia. Several of the soldiers, who were brought into town sick, have died, and it is feared the disorder by which they were afflicted is infectious.

Jan. 11th. Weather very cold, and the river quite shut. I pity the poor soldiers, now on their march, many of whom will probably lay out in the fields this cold night. What cause have I for gratitude, that I and my household are sheltered from the storm! oh that the hearts of my offspring may learn to trust in the God of their *mother*—He who has condescended to preserve us in great danger, and kept our feet from wandering from the habitation his goodness has allotted to us.

Jan. 12th. We are told to-day of the robbery of one of the commissaries—the sum lost is said to be £10,000. I have not heard who is suspected of committing the robbery. The Earl of B——n,* who quitted his habitation on the first alarm of the Hessians coming in, is returned with his family. We have some hopes that our refugee will be presented with a pair of lawn sleeves, when dignities become cheap, and suppose he will then think himself too *big* to creep into his old auger hole—but I shall remind him of the *place*, if I live to see him created first B——p of B——n.

Jan. 13th. Several of the *tories*, who went out of town while the gondolas were here, are returned, on hearing there has been a general jail-delivery at Philadelphia. One man, who thought himself immovable, has been compelled to swear or sign allegiance to the States.

* Ironical.—E^u.

Jan. 11th. — The *Lee* the day runs that — that the New England men have taken Long Island, and are in possession of Kanawha Bridge — that Gen. Lee is not taken by his own men — the report in a desperate condition intrenching at Brunswick, and quite hopeless of gaining any advantage over the Americans this campaign. A letter from a friend, a friend, E. C., informs me her husband's battalion was in the front of the battle, and behaved remarkably well; they took 200 prisoners, and 1000 shot in the field. He acknowledges the preserving hand of Providence, preserving him, &c. through such a scene of blood, &c. — Their Gen. Howe sent a request to Washington, desiring three days' cessation of arms, to take care of the wounded, and bury the dead, which was refused; what a woful tendency war has to harden the human heart against the tender feelings of humanity! — Well may it be called a *horrid art* — thus to change the nature of man. — I thought that even barbarous nations had a sort of religious regard for the dead. — A friend from Trenton tells me poor A. Morris died in three hours after he was wounded and was buried in Friend's burying ground, at Stony Brook. — Asa Capps Shippen was buried by him. — The same friend told us that a man was killed in his bed at the house of Stacy Potts, at Trenton, in the time of the engagement there, and that Potts's daughter, about the age of nine, went to her father's room the night preceding the battle, and returning in the morning, having accidentally stepped into her father's door, a ball met her, being directed by the merciful hand of Providence — took the comb out of her hair, and gently laid it to the side of her head without doing her any further injury: who shall doubt, when they are shot at random?

Jan. 15th. — I was a good deal affected this evening, at seeing the hearse in which Gen. Mercer's body was conveyed over the river, on the ice, to be buried at Philadelphia; poor Capt. Shippen's body was also taken over, at the same time, to be reburied there. — P. Reed gave us the following account of a report they heard from a man, whom her sister sent to Burlington to bring some things they were in want of the night the last soldiers came into town. — Reed's wife hired a wagon to come here, and got one of her neighbours to come and fetch some of her goods. — Just as the man began to load the wagon, the soldiers came

running into town, and the man whipped up his horses and drove away without his goods. When he got to Reed's house in the country, he told them there was 10,000 wagons in Burlington,—that Gen. Washington, Lee, Howe, and all the Americans were engaged in battle, in Burlington,—that Washington was mortally wounded, and the streets were full of dead bodies, and that the groans of the dying were still in his ears. They opened their letters in fearful haste, and found nothing relative to what the man told them, nor could they convince him that his fright had magnified the matter, till they sent a person up here to enquire.

* * * A page of the MS. unfortunately missing. * * *

Jan. 31st, 1777. 'The scruples of my own mind being satisfied in keeping my son here till the search was over, I felt peace in the prospect of sending him to my dear brother, C. M. (Dr. Charles Moore), and now that he is gone from me, I feel like a merchant who has ventured *half* his fortune out to sea, anxious for the success of the voyage; oh that it may be a prosperous one to my dear boy—then shall I be happy.

Feb. 3d. To-day appeared in print, a proclamation of Gen. Washington's, ordering all persons who had taken protections of the king's commissioners, to come in thirty days, and swear allegiance to the United States of America, or else, repair with their families to the lines of the British troops. What will become of our refugee, now!

Feb. 4th. To-day eight boats full of soldiers sailed up the river to join the continental forces; they appeared to be very merry with their drums beating, and colours flying; this is said to be the day appointed for our friends, who are prisoners, to have a hearing before Putnam; a man, who is not a lover of peace, told us it was expected there would be bloody work on the occasion.

Feb. 6th. Several hundred soldiers, who were returning from the camp, were quartered on the inhabitants, and in general, I hear, behaved well.

Feb. 7th. All the soldiers quartered on the town last night, went away to-day. The prisoners taken from our town, and Mount Holly, discharged and returned home; several of them much fatigued, and some sick.

Feb. 11th. This evening two doctors were brought into town, and put into

presented for examination the following certificate to the soldiers of Gen. Putnam, who had a copy of the certificate made out. The vessel was discharged in a few days.

April 19th. Jno Lawrence, Thomas Watson, and eight other persons, of Mexican birth, but who were captured here, and delivered over to their good behavior, were ordered to appear at the next court to be held. *nobody knows where.*

April 17th. A number of British troops went up the river, and landed troops at Rattlesburg, and 1500 men surrounded the town on the inhabitants there.

April 18th. A report that the British were making a descent on the British troops and Americans, the latter victorious. B. Helm summoned before the governor on 14th, and to answer at the next court for purloining silver dollars to paper. The English refused to be examined, and the fleet below.

Monday, Capt. Watson and his company came here in order to set off the next day for New York, having received orders from the governor to depart the state. Just as they were setting out, a detachment of the light horse arrived with a party of soldiers, and demanded the keys of his trunks—some of which they opened, and took out the trunks, and took all they could find, and guarded him when he went to R. Smith's, and were all night in his room: they set a guard over his room, and in the morning returned, and examined all his trunks, and then went back him to Philadelphia, where he was to wait on the general, and afterwards called along some of which was, that he was suspected of being a spy, and that he was suspected of being another was, that he had in a sermon he preached at Rattlesburg, advised the people that if they took up arms against the king they would be destroyed. He was wise, pleaded innocent to this, and finding they could not prove it on him, they referred him to the governor, who reproved him for not being a spy, and gave him a pass, he had granted him, two or three weeks ago, and also gave a prohibition from presenting his journey to York, and ordered him to temper with his journey to Bethlehem, there to remain during their pleasure, and cost him a journey of six miles.

Monday. The court met here, when several persons, confined in our jail, some taken, were examined. Jno Lawrence released, D. Ellis imprisoned, and

J. Carty fined sixpence, for contempt of court ; several ordered back to prison, and R. Smith, B. Helm, T. Hulings, and Collin Campbell examined ; R. Smith ordered to pay £100, or be confined in prison ; he chose the latter, and accordingly took possession of the room J. L. had quitted ; the oaths offered to the three others, which they refusing, were fined.

May 26th. This day Capt. Webb and his family left us to go to Bethlehem. W. D., who some days since recived a passport from Gen. Washington, set out for New York with the widow Allen.

June 7th. The reports often coming by expresses, give us reason to believe the English army are in motion, and it is generally supposed they intend to bend their course to Philadelphia.

June 10th. A person from the camp came to town to engage a number of guides (to go back with him,) who were well acquainted with the different roads to Philadelphia, that in case our people should be obliged to retreat, they may not be at a loss.

June 11th. Certain intelligence arrived, per express, that the English are at Bound Brook, the Americans at Morristown.

June 13th. Early this morning the soldiers beat to march from Bristol, and in the course of the day several boats full of soldiers, with the Pennsylvania militia, sailed up the river.

June 14th. Before daylight this morning, the alarm guns, at Princeton, Trenton, Bordentown, and Bristol, were fired, and answered by those below ; about 9 o'clock the gondolas and barges began to appear in sight, and from that time, till 9 at night, there have gone up the river five or six gondolas. Several flat-bottomed boats are also gone to Bristol. There is a report of a battle to-day, which seems probable, as we have heard much firing above. By a person from Bordentown, we hear twelve expresses came in there to-day from camp. Some of the gondola men and their wives being sick, and no doctor in town to apply to, they were told that Mrs. M. was a skilful woman, and kept medicines to give to the poor ; and notwithstanding their late attempts to shoot my poor boy, they ventured to come to me, and, in a very humble manner, begged me to come and

do something for them. At first I thought they might have a design to put a trap upon me, and get me aboard of their gondola, and then pillage my house; as they had done some others. But on asking where the sick folks were, was told they were lodged in the governor's house. So I went to see them: there were several both men and women very ill with a fever. Some said the campy appeared to be but a fever. I treated them according to art, and they all got well. The night I had received my pay, when they thankfully acknowledged my cures. But not many short time afterwards, a very rough, ill looking man, came to the door and asked for me. When I went to him, he drew me aside, and told me I had my friends in Philadelphia: the question alarmed me, supposing there was some mischief meditated against that poor city, however I enquired of them in private, some sisters, and other near friends there. When I told them my fears, they desired to hear from them, or send any thing by way of assurance to them. I said I would do I will take charge of it, and bring you back word, they were very much surprised, and thought to be surprised, I wanted to see my patients to take to the gondolas, when he told me to go, I was glad of that, and I gave a medicine to, and this was the only time they could be taken to my dear friends. My heart leaped with joy, and I sent letters to my dear friends, and sent friends. A quarter of four some more arrived, and I was very happy at it, and about midnight the man called and told me they were all well. He let them in Robert Hopkins's, at the Point, from where they were bound, took them to town, and two nights after, a loud knocking was heard at the door, which alarmed us. Opening the chamber window, we heard a knock, and a voice came down softly and open the door, but bring no one in, but a voice from the street, in such a call, and we concluded to see what was the matter, and found the *London*. When we got to the front door, we found a messenger from the *London* had been opened quickly: so the door was opened, and when I saw it to be our honest gondola man, with a letter, a bundle of rice, some of my dear friends, a bag of rice, some tea, coffee, and sugar, and some other necessaries for my poor boys, all sent by my kind sisters. How did

our hearts and eyes overflow with love to them, and thanks to our Heavenly Father, for such seasonable supplies. May we never forget it. Being now so rich, we thought it our duty to hand out a little to the poor around us, who were mourning for want of salt; so we divided the bushel, and gave a pint to every poor person that came for it, and had a great plenty for our own use. Indeed it seemed as if our little store increased by distributing it, like the bread broken by our Saviour to the multitude, which, when he had blessed it, was so marvelously multiplied. One morning, having left my chamber at an earlier hour than usual, and casting my eyes towards the river, was surprised to see some hundreds of boats, all filled with British soldiers. I ran to my dear G. D.'s room, and begged him to get up and see the sight. He went to the window, and I waited to hear what he would say; but as he said nothing, I called out to him, "Brother, what shall we do, now?" He opened his door, and sweetly and calmly said, "Let us, my sister, keep still and quiet; I believe no harm will happen to us;" and indeed we were favoured with remarkable stillness; even the children seemed to partake of it. The boats were ordered up the river to Bordentown, to burn all the gondolas. Poor R. Sutton and his son passing my door, I stopped him, and asked him where he was going; he said, to join the soldiers to march to Bordentown, for the English were going to burn it, and on their return would do the same to Burlington. I begged him not to go, and said, perhaps he would be killed; he said he would go, for all that—next day we heard he was killed. The report was, that some of the militia had fired on the English boats as they were rowing up the river; the firing was returned, and poor Sutton was the first, if not the only one killed; the last boat we saw, was a small one, with only three men and the rowers in it; they were not soldiers; when they came opposite to the town wharf, they stopped rowing, and pulled off their hats and bowed to the people on the wharf. We heard afterwards it was our poor refugee, Doctor S. Burling, and J. Stansbury, who intended to have come on shore and paid us a visit, but so many people appearing on the wharf they thought it safest to take to their oars and follow the fleet. One large vessel, with cannon, was in the fleet, and when they returned, were ordered to fire if they saw soldiers on the

which were about 1000 boats. It seems the soldiers had notice of the time when they were to return, and they placed themselves along the shore, quite down to the ferry—it was First day afternoon, and all the family, but myself, gone to meeting, and I was lying on the bed, and hearing a large gun, looked out of the window, and saw the large ship so close to our landing, that I thought they were coming ashore; when, behold! they fired two or three of their great guns, which shook the house, and went through the walls of our next door neighbour, who was a captain in the rebel army. I still kept at the window, unapprehensive of danger, and seeing a man on the deck talking, and pointing to my house, one of them said, "In that house lives a woman to whom I am indebted for my life; she sheltered me when I was driven from my own house," &c. This I was afterwards told by a person who heard it; it is needless to add it was our poor refugee. I really think they have made an end of the gondolas; I hope never to see another. A rebel quarter-master, who had received some little civilities from my S. D. and myself, asked me one day, if I did not wish to see my friends in Philadelphia; I said it was the wish nearest my heart; he said he would accompany me as far as Frankfurt, if I would promise to take no kind of provision with me, and that he would meet me at the same place, and conduct me home again. Such an offer was not to be slighted. I went to my friend, A. O., and asked her if she would venture to bear me company. She joyfully agreed, and we borrowed a horse and chair, and early next morning set out. Our quarter-master bore our guard, and good neighbour J. A. went with us to the ferry, to see us safe over. We got to A. J. J.'s place in the afternoon, and sent notice to our friends in town, and next morning my father, brothers, Moore and Wells, and my two sisters with Dr. O. &c. met us at Kensington, for they dared not go on their feet alone. But do not—believe there never was a more heart-rending meeting. I did not see my father and sisters for many months, and the loss of my dear friends, and the probability of this being the last time we should meet, together with the reports of the great scarcity of provisions, all conspired to the end of it, thus, still contributed to make it an awfully distressing time. Mr. J. J. later went to A. J.'s place and dined with me

A. O. stayed with her husband till evening, when my dear sisters left me and returned to town. The parting was almost too much for me. I thought we were taking a last farewell of each other, but part we must; they went to town, and Nancy and myself retired soon to bed, expecting our quarter-master to call on us by daylight, but no news did we hear of him; but a heavy firing in the morning made us fearful we should not get safe home. About nine o'clock some stragglers stopped at our quarters, and said there had been a skirmish between the English and Americans, and, more terrible still, that parties were ordered out to bring in all they should meet with; this intelligence made us conclude to venture homewards without our guide; we got into our chair and whipped and cut our dull horse at a strange rate. Several parties passed and repassed, and questioned us about whence we came, and where we were going—they said if we were going to Burlington, we should be stopped at the ferry and taken to Washington's head quarters; for there was a report that women had been into town and brought out goods. We kept our minds pretty calm, hoping that if we got safe to the ferry, as we were so well known, we should meet no more dangers, and we got along well till we got to the hill beyond the Red Lion, which being very bad, and we still pressing our poor horse to make more haste, he made one violent exertion to reach the top of the hill, when, to our utter dismay, the swingletree broke, and the chair began to roll down the hill. We both jumped out at the same instant; Nancy held the horse while I rolled a stone behind the wheel, and there we stood afraid to stir from the horse, and thinking we should be obliged to leave the chair, and lead the horse home. At last we ventured to the door of a small house hard by; a man came out, and with the help of Nancy's ribbons and my garters, fixed us off, and we once again mounted the chair, and walked the horse till we came near the Bristol road, where we heard the ferry was guarded, and none suffered to cross. However we kept on, and at length reached the ferry, where, instead of armed men, we could hardly find one man to put us over. At last we got over, and now being on our own shore, we began like people just escaped from shipwreck, to review the dangers past, and congratulate ourselves on our arrival in a safe port; and I hope not without a sincere,

the watchful eye to which, in it, at the good hand that had vouchsafed to bring the letter, and bring it to our home, habitations. When we arrived at my door, my mother, S. D. had the maid, and children all sitting with her; her mother, who seemed to feel the apprehensions for our safety. As we had stayed out so long, we intended that we conjectured by our wise neighbour, J. V., that something bad had happened, nothing less than that the horse, which was to have carried us, had been kept in Pennsylvania. Ed. Smith, who lent the carriage, was alarmed for the fate of his carriage, and S. H., who loudly exulted in our expedition, said we were certainly carried to head quarters; and N. M., who had been in the British pay, it would go hard with her for her to be so far from it, if all their wise conjectures proved like the croaking of the owl, and in a bit of a while, we appeared before them in our proper persons, because our arrival was announced. Some cried out, where's the horse? where's the carriage? where have you been? &c. We gaily told them all was safe, then sat down to our good dinner, and rehearsed all we had seen, heard, and suffered; when we were warmly advised never to engage again in such a perilous adventure, and we accordingly assured them that if we did we would look our eyes out for the horse and carriage, and be our own guides; for that our late escape from the British, and our present comfort, was like a whet to an hungry man's appetite for the better appetite for his dinner.

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